

Stouffville youth will serve as legislative page this session

KATE GILDERDALE
Correspondent

Twelve-year-old Chris Jull of Stouffville learned last week that he has been accepted into the Legislative Page Program at Queen's Park during the fall session of the legislature.

Chris, who attends Orchard Park Public School, was the sole representative selected from the riding of York-Durham.

He was one of 72 Grade 8 students accepted into the program out of a total of 443 applicants from across the province.

The program is aimed at A-students with an aptitude for teamwork and an outgoing personality, as well as good academic skills.

Chris applied after his name was drawn in a school ballot.

"I had to fill in an application with three questions on it," he explained. "They asked why I wanted to be a page, what clubs or associations I was involved in and what activities take up my spare time."

The four week term runs from Sept. 23 to Oct. 18 and the legislative pages spend much of their time in the house.

They also attend study periods to help them keep up with school work. Each day runs from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"It's a long day," said Chris, "but I'm really looking forward to it."



Photo/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Practice makes perfect

Alex Waite and his friend Brennan Mitchell practice their guitar techniques at Stouffville Memorial Park on Saturday afternoon. They were waiting for Alex's brother who was playing in a ball tournament.

York Region to offer thoughts on shopping

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time," Oakes said.

He also implied local council is more aware of where tourist exemptions should be in their area.

Oakes also suggested the Sunday shopping legislation was an issue regional officials may not have time to handle.

"We have a lot of problems facing this region that require solutions, thought, effort and time," he noted.

"Should an old lady be entitled to sell pin cushions at a flea market on Sunday? I don't think this is something that should be occupying the time of our councillors," he said.

As far as Markham mayor Tony Roman is concerned, the municipalities never asked for the responsibility in the first place.

Right now, the issue is in the province's hands and it's not a bad place for it to be, he suggested.

"Quite frankly, I think that's where it should be," he said. "If you're talking about universality, it should be universal provincial-wide so everyone should have a level playing field."

Old phone books can now be recycled

Whitchurch-Stouffville residents can now recycle their telephone books. On the latest telephone bill, local residents are being encouraged to recycle the old telephone book once their new one arrives. Residents can take the old books to the Stouffville Recycling Depot, south of the town hall, on Thursday or Saturday mornings.

MP blasts Liberal trade report

ENZO DI MATTEO
Staff Reporter

The effects of free trade and the worldwide "rationalization" of the global economy will diminish Canada's international competitiveness for at least the next decade, says Markham Whitchurch-Stouffville MP Bill Attewell.

Responding to a recently released Liberal task force report on the loss of jobs to free trade, Attewell argued that job losses in Canada's manufacturing sector are largely a product of the current recession, higher taxes and a "rationalization" of the global economy.

The Liberal report estimates that 267,000 manufacturing jobs have been lost in Canada since the Canada-United States free trade agreement came into effect two and a half years ago.

The report, which was drafted from more than 130 submissions from individuals and business groups, calls for a renegotiation of the agreement.

Liberal industry critic Jim Peterson said the agreement, combined with the federal government's high interest rate policies, has made it almost impossible for Canadian industry to compete globally.

Attewell argued that the report's criticism of the government's monetary policies, as they relate to inflation and high interest rates, no longer apply with steady decreases in both in recent months.

Attewell said all the world's leading industrialized nations are experiencing similar economic trends because of "excess capacity."

He ventured that it would be "10 to 20 years before we really are lean and mean" and able to compete effectively in the global marketplace.

"It's too expensive to do business in this country," said Attewell.

Several measures are being taken in the interim, Attewell said, to get Canada back on the right economic track.

The measures include the lowering of

interest rates and the drafting of a report that will set a strategy for Canada's future competitiveness. A leaked discussion paper that's one of several documents expected to precede the release of the report, calls for the establishment of national education standards to increase literacy and improve Canada's international competitiveness.

A spokesperson for the Canadian Labor Congress, however, characterizes as "absolute nonsense" Attewell's argument linking job losses chiefly to the recession and global rationalization.

Derik Hodgson, communications director for the Ottawa-based group, said that, unlike the last recession, the most current job losses are permanent. Hodgson also pointed out that the government has not lived up to its promise to establish job retraining programs for affected workers and has cut unemployment insurance benefits to force workers to go on welfare.

"This isn't what the government promised," said Hodgson. "Remember, jobs, jobs, jobs? The industrial heart-

land is being cut out of Canada." Hodgson added that the labor congress is preparing for a nationwide campaign against free trade this fall.

Said Attewell: "It's too soon to start rejigging the agreement. We said from the beginning that it would be five to 10 years before we start seeing its benefits."

Craft show planned

There will be a craft show at the Vandorf Community Center on Aug. 11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission to the event is free. There will be a wide range of crafts offered including, stain glass, dried flowers, sewing, herbs and country crafts. A tea room will be situated downstairs and there will also be a raffle.



Photo/ANNETTE BUCHKOWSKI

50th anniversary

Merlin and Helen Baker celebrated their 50th anniversary Saturday. The Bakers have four children and 10 grandchildren at Baker Hill Baptist Church on

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